

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to talk to you today about the Career and Technical Education Program in Walla Walla, Washington. Students in this program are learning skills that are highly important in the working world and will give them a leg up on the competition as they enter the workforce. This program has made a tremendous impact on the school's learning environment and also gives students an incentive to stay in school.

Fifteen years ago, the faculty at Walla Walla High School wanted to create a program in which students would gain practical knowledge to supplement what is learned in the traditional classroom setting. The Career and Technical Education Program, created with the help of grant money, gives students the opportunity to gain technical skills along with the school's curriculum.

For example, students enrolled in anatomy or physiology class can put their knowledge to work by taking Sports Medicine where they learn about treating sports injuries, CPR and other first aid skills. In addition, technology labs have been interwoven into the curriculum to teach robotics, flight simulation, and bridge analysis to enhance math and physics classes. Through this programs, students can see a direct link between their work in the classroom to a potential job.

Gerald Cummins, Director of Career and Technical Education, says the Career and Technical Education Program has drastically improved the college bound population in Walla Walla over the last fifteen years. "Fifteen years ago, there were barely any kids continuing on to the college level. Now most kids are achieving college credits through our program before even being accepted into college."

The faculty at Walla Walla High School also has established strong communication between parents, the school and community members, giving students a sense of support that will encourage them to continue in their academic pursuits.

Much credit should be given to the vision of the Walla Walla School Board and staff who have worked to ensure high standards of teaching. They have found new ways to improve upon their curriculum and provided excellent opportunities for each student to expand his or her horizons.●

TRIBUTE TO RONALD L. FREELAND, NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINORITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated and respected leader in public transportation, Ronald L. Freeland, Administrator for the Mass Transit Administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation. Ron has recently been chosen to be President of the Board of the National Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, COMTO, and I would like to express my appreciation for the work he has done for Maryland, and my congratulations and best wishes as he assumes his new leadership responsibilities.

Throughout his career, Ron Freeland has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring quality transportation in Maryland. Since 1997, Ron has overseen the Mass Transit Administration, MTA, which operates the bus, light rail, Metro, and MARC systems throughout the Baltimore-Washington area—systems that provide transportation services to 355,000 people every day. Prior to his service at MTA, Ron was Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Administration, where he made key reforms in that agency's operations, including improvements in the operation of the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program. His public service also includes tenure as Director of Operations at MTA, membership on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Transportation Authority, and membership on the Board of the Canton Railroad. Well-maintained highways and reliable transit systems provide safe travel daily for millions of Americans, and I want to commend Ron for his dedication to improving transportation services in Maryland. I have known Ron for many years and have had the opportunity to work closely with him on many issues affecting transportation in Maryland. I have found him to be a dedicated public servant and a steadfast ally to the friends of public transportation.

In addition to his work for the people of Maryland, Ron has fought tirelessly for equality within the transportation community. He is about to assume leadership of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, a national organization founded in 1971, which now boasts over 2,000 members and over 25 local chapters throughout the United States. Ron has been working with COMTO for almost twenty years, and has demonstrated unyielding devotion to COMTO's dual mission of achieving inclusion and upward mobility for minorities and women within the industry, and advocating for citizens and groups who are underserved by existing transportation services. His leadership and integrity in this pursuit inspired the members of COMTO to

choose Ron as National President—and they could not have made a better choice. I am confident that, as President, Ron will inspire his colleagues across the country to dedicate themselves to ensuring minorities and women equal access to transportation jobs and services. It is the courage and hard work of people like Ron Freeland that will make certain no one is left behind as the transportation industry evolves to meet America's growing needs in the 21st century.●

TRIBUTE TO BERT M. CONCKLIN

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a patriot, federal servant, and industry leader, Bert M. Concklin. I have worked with him closely for nearly twenty years in his capacity as president of the Professional Services Council (PSC), as a representative of two of the largest employers in Virginia, PSC and Computer Sciences Corporation, and as a driving influence on numerous advisory panels.

After more than eight years with PSC, Bert has accepted the role of Business Systems Modernization Executive at the Internal Revenue Service. I admire his courageous willingness to tackle such an obvious challenge and I anticipate that he will, as always, perform exceedingly well. The agency is fortunate to acquire such a talented executive.

Throughout his career, Bert has proven himself to be an effective leader and an even-handed advocate. The fact that he has been such a dynamic leader for the professional and technical services industry, which is populated by so many of our nation's most innovative names, has in no small way made our jobs in the United States Senate that much easier. Those companies represent the very heart of our national defense and I know that Bert's dedication originates in large part from a love of our country that I share. Perhaps this trait comes from his days at the United States Naval Academy, but I suspect he had it even before.

Bert is no stranger to federal service. During his many years of service with the federal government he has held a number of distinguished positions including, Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Deputy Administrator for Policy Evaluation for the Federal Energy Administration; Administrator of Price Controls for the Cost of Living Council; and Director of Information Systems with the Office of Management and Budget. He has also held significant special assignments including membership on the FAA Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee.

I wish every success to Mr. Concklin as he starts the next chapter of his truly remarkable career and thank him for a job exceedingly well done.●